THE HISTORY OF THE TRAVELS,

Perſecutions, and cruel Martyrdom of our bleſſed LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

LIKEWISE,

The Holy Life, Travels, and Martyrdom of the Twelve APOSTLES, the firſt Propagators of the Chriſtian Religion, gathered from the Holy Scriptures.

BY A REVEREND DIVINE.

Very fit for all Chriſtian Families.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY A. ROBERTSON, FOOT OF THE HORSE-WYND.

M,DCC,LXXXVIII.

THE LIFE OF OUR BLESSED LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, BRIEFLY SET FORTH, &c.

THE time in which our blessed Saviour took an human nature upon him, was born of the blessed virgin Mary was in the 4004th year of the world, in the 42d year of the reign of Augustus the Emperor, as it is testified by the most learned writers: But to declare the generation, and essence of Christ: no speech is able to set forth, since the Holy Ghost by the prophet testifieth, Isa. 53. His generation who is able to declare.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, a city in Judea, in the reign of Herod the king. This Herod, after he had heard of the birth of our Saviour, by the report of the wise men of the east, that came to worship him, he not having tidings brought back to him by the wise men, of the place of our Saviour's birth, craftily sought to destroy him, by causing the young children of two years of age and under, to be killed according to the time that he enquired of the wise men, but his parents being warned by an angel, fled with him into Egypt, and he escaped the bloody massacre. After the death of Herod, he came back and dwelt in the city of Nazareth. At 12 years of age, he was found by his parents in the temple sitting among the doctors both hearing them, and asking them questions, Luke Ch. 2. When he was about the age of 30, he was baptised of St John the baptist, where the Holy Ghost descended bodily upon him, in the likeness of a dove, and God the Father from heaven testified, that he was his only begotten Son, in whom he was well pleased, Luke 3. Suddenly after this he was led into the wilderness, and fasted 40 days and 40 nights, and was tempted of the devil, whom he overcame and made flee. After this he taketh upon him the ministry of dispensing the everlasting gospel, for the salvation of mankind, which shall reach to the utmost part of the world. He was a merciful high priest, liberally bestowing his gifts and graces in all places. He healed the sick, cured the blind, and raised the dead to life, great was his bounty, he fed 5000 people with five loaves and two fishes, at a marriage in Cana, he turned water into wine. So many and great were his miraculous sayings and worthy deeds, done in his holy and exemplary life, that the world could not contain in those books that could be wrote

of them, as is testified by St John ch. 2. Finally, he spent four years in preaching those great truths; that shall remain for ever in the hearts of his saints and servants, he was at last betrayed by Judas, one of his own disciples, whipped, scourged, and beaten with most cruel stripes, and afterwards crucified between two thieves, by the malicious and wicked Jews, he rose again the third day, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all true believers; and ever sits at the Father's right hand, making intercession for us. To whom be ascribed all honour, dominion and glory, both now and for evermore. AMEN.

I. *The Life and Martyrdom of St* James *the Just.*

ST JAMES the cousin-german of our Saviour Christ, was esteemed of all men, in his lifetime a just and upright man, he was holy from his mother's womb; he drank no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any creature wherein there was life, neither shaven nor anointed, nor did use both, unto him only was it lawful to enter into the holy place, he was found on his knees praying for the sins of his people, his knees were like a camel's benumed and bereft of feeling, in supplications to God for the people: For the excellency of his righteousness he was called just. The people being assembled together, in the time of the passover, they intreated him to persuade the people frequenting the passover concerning Jesus, saying, for we all obey thee, yea we and all the people do testify of thee, that thou art just, and doth not respect the persons of any, persuade therefore this multitude that they err not in Jesus, for the whole multitude and we obey thee Stand therefore on the pinacle of the temple, that thy word may be heard of the people; and having placed him thereon, they shouted to him and said, thou just man, declare to this people that is seduced after Jesus that was crucified. Which is the way and door of Jesus crucified: And he answered with a loud voice, why ask ye me of Jesus the Son of man, when that he liveth in heaven, and shall come in the clouds of the air. So he persuaded many, so that they glorified God at the testimony of St James, and cried out, Hosanna in the highest to the son of David; but the Scribes and Pharasees, repented them when they heard him make this confession, and they shouted saying, the just is also seduced Then they climbed up and threw him down headlong After the fall he was not fully dead, he fell on his knees and prayed to God to forgive them as they were stoning

him. One of the priests cryed out, the just prayeth for you; then one of them beat out his brains that he suffered martyrdom, as Egesipus testifieth: St Clement wrote this of him. St James was so famous and renowned for his righteousness, the wise among the Jews attributed sudden destruction to Jerusalem to his martyrdom, which followed soon after.

The Martyrdom of St Peter.

SImon Peter, called by our Saviour Jonah, was a very eminent apostle of Jesus, (as his epistle makes mention) he preached the gospel in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Bythnia, and Asia. St Peter going to his house, and seeing his wife going to be martyred rejoiced greatly, because of her calling, and cried out vehemently: exhorting and comforting her, calling her by her name, and saying, Oh! woman, remember the Lord. He at Rome, through the condemnation of Nero the Emperor, because he had overcome Simon Magus the sorcerer, was crucified with his head downwards, as he desired, not persuming to have it upwards, because his master was so handled, saith Eusebius.

The Martyrdom of St. Andrew.

ST. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, he was a great propagator of the gospel of Jesus Christ, he preached at Athia, and afterwards at Scythia and at Bobastophus, inhabited by the wild Ethiopians. he was taken at Putan, a city of Achia, by Ægus proconsul of that province, because he converted Maximilia his wife, he cast him into prison where he was sore beaten, and at last stretched upon a slope cross to increase his torments, and so died a martyr.

The Martyrdom of St James *the* Major.

ST James the son of Zebedee, called the Major, was a fisherman, he was chosen to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the twelve dispersed tribes, and was sent to Spain, from whom, (by reason of the obstinacy of the people, for he converted but nine persons) he returned shortly to preach in Judea, where by the envy of a bishop called Abrather, he was accused and beheaded by the consent of Herod and his body was conveyed, first to Jerusalem, and from thence to Spain

The Life and Travels of St John *the* Apoſtle.

ST John the brother of St James, alſo an evangeliſt, whom the Lord loved, who leaned on his breaſt, he it was concerning whom our Saviour Chriſt, when on the croſs, ſaid Woman behold thy ſon and to St John, behold thy mother.' From that time he took her home to hishouſe, John ch. 19. He preached the goſpel of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt in Aſia, but the emperor Trajan exiled him to the iſle of Patmos, for preaching the goſpel, where he wrote the book of Revelation, and his Goſpel, and Epiſtle, when he made public at Ephuſes, by Gaius his hoſt, who was a deacon, to whom he directs his third Epiſtle; whom alſo St. Paul to the Romans teſtifieth, ſaying, Gaius mine hoſt and the whole church ſalute you. After the death of Trajan the Emperor he returned out of the iſle of Patmos and remained at Epheſus, until he had lived an hundred years. Some ſay he was caſt into a chaldron of boiling oil, ye came out ſafe. He was buried at Ephuſes.

The Martyrdom of St Philip.

ST. Philip was of the city of Bethſaida; he preached the goſpel thro' the whole country of Scythia, and converted a great part of it in the ſpace of twenty years. He preached in Phyrgia; alſo Polycratus wrote to Victor biſhop of Rome, thus ſaith he, Philip one of the twelve Apoſtles was buried in Hieropolis, being crucified: there was alſo buried his daughters which led their whole lives in virginity. Philip had four daughters which were virgins and propheteſſes, they with their father were buried in Hieropolis honourably.

The Travels and Martyrdom of St Paul.

SAUL after his converſion called Paul; the great doctor of the Gentiles was a Jew, born of the tribe Benjamin, he was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel a famous doctor of thoſe times St Paul was a moſt eminent apoſtle, and preacher of the goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, by his ſeveral epiſtles (famous in the church of Chriſt) make mention After he had undergone many dangers and ſuffered many torments, as beating with rods, being put into ſtocks, ſton'd at Lyſtra, delivered to wild beaſts at Epheſus, bound and beaten at Jeruſalem, and at laſt was be-

headed at Rome, by the command of Nero the Roman emperor, the moſt cruel and barbarous perſecutor of the church of Chriſt.

The Life and Martyrdom of St Bartholomew.

ST Bartholomew was (as ſome authors affirm) born in Syria, he was heir and nephew to a king, he hearing of the fame of Chriſt deſired to be his diſciple, only deſired that according to the dignity of his birth; he might wear his purple, which our Saviour granted, but withal told him, that tho' he was loath to put off his purple for his ſake, he ſhould not be loath to lay down his life for the ſame cauſe, he preached Chriſt to the Indians, and delivered to them the goſpel of St Mathew; he came after to Aſina a city of Armenia the greater, where he converted the king of that city, and deſtroyed their idols. Afterwards by the command of Aſtigias, for converting his brother Pohom, he was the firſt day beaten with cudgels, faſtened to a croſs and ſtead, where he continued preaching the Lord till the next day, laſtly while breath remained he was beheaded.

The Travels and Martyrdom of St Thomas

ST Thomas called Dydimus, preached the goſpel to the Parmenians, Medes, Beotians, Hericans, Brachmans; and converted a great part of India, he was notwithſtanding, by the infidels thrown into a burning furnace, and he came out unhurt. Finally becauſe he prayed to God to deſtroy the idol of the Sun, which the infidels would have compelled him to worſhip, he was by them thruſt through with ſpears and ſwords, wereby he died

The Martyrdom of St Matthew.

ST Matthew preached the goſpel in Ethiopia now called Preſter John's country; he preached ſo much to them, that the king came to baptiſm. he wrote the goſpel of our Lord Jeſus in the Hebrew tongue, and delivered it to the brother of the Lord according to the fleſh who was made biſhop of Jeruſalem, ſome ſay he converted moſt part of Ethiopia, and having newly ended his prayers, and lifting up his hands to heaven by the altar certain ſpies came and ran him through, and ſo he was martyred.

The Life and Martyrdom of St Simon

ST Simon the ſon of Cleophas, couſin german to our Lord Jeſus, brother to Thadeus and St James the leſs lineally deſcended from the ſtock of king David. In his days the church of God remained a pure virgin, for a hundred years after Chriſt, he preached in Egypt and returned to Jeruſalem, where by the conſent of the apoſtles he was made biſhop of Jeruſalem, after the Martyrdom of his brother St James he was ill treated by heriticks, accuſed before Atticus, the conſul of a chriſtian and ſcourged him many days inſomuch that the conſul and all others wondered how he being an hundred years old could endure torments, he was at laſt crucified as his maſter was.

The Martyrdom of St Matthias.

ST Matthias after the aſcention of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, was choſen by the apoſtles, to ſucced Judas, Acts, 1, 6. He was born at Bethlehem, and decended of the tribe of Juda, he preached the goſpel at Ethiopia, unto a barbarous nation, he was at laſt accuſed by his enemies and condemned to be ſtoned to death by two men during which torments, one ſmote him with a hatchet, by which means he ſuffered martyrdom.

The Life and Martyrdom of the Evangeliſt St Mark

ST Mark the avangeliſt the firſt biſhop of Alexandria preached the goſpel of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, unto the people of Alexandria, bordering the counteries from Egypt unto Penapolis there he preached the goſpel which he wrote, and alſo ſettled the churches of Alexandria there was a great multitude of belivers both men and women at the firſt meeting was gathered together, he was the firſt preacher to the Egyptians, and after he had painfully preached the goſpel of our Lord and Saviour for ſeveral years, at laſt in the time of Trajan, he had a cable rope tyed about his neck at Alexandria by which he was drawn from the place called Becolus, unto the place called Angels where he was burned to aſhes by the furious idolaters in the Month of April.

The life of St John Baptist, The Forerunner of Christ.

ST John Baptist was the son of Zecharia and Elizabeth of the tribe of Levi, being Cousin to Mary the mother of Jesus, he neither drank wine nor strong drink he preached the gospel in Cannan of Galilee, and baptized our Saviour at the River Jordan, and king Herod heard of him and John his name was spread abroad, and they said that John the baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. Others said, that it is Elias and others said that he is a prophet or as one of the prophets. For John said unto Herod it is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife, therefore Herodias had quarrel against him and would have killed him but she could not.

And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danc'd and pleas'd Herod, and them that were with him, the king said to the damsel ask of me whatsoever thou wilt and I will give it thee, and he swore unto her, whatsoever thou shalt ask of me I will give it thee, even unto the half of my kingdom, and she went forth and said unto her mother what shall I ask, and she said the head of John the baptist, and she came straightway with haste unto the king and asked saying I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the baptist, and the king was exceeding sorry yet for his oaths sake and for their sake that sat with him he would not reject her and immediatly the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought and he went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head in a charger and gave it to the damsel and the damsel gave it to her mother, and when his disciples heard it they came and took up his corps and laid it in a tomb and the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

*** For the benefit of the Bearer, who takes this method for a support.

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM 13 JY 98